Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service
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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 1

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Corn harvest is underway in a few early maturing fields in the southwestern area of the state, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Dry weather prevailed during most of the week with only a few areas in the south receiving any measurable precipitation. Major crops continued to advance toward maturity. Chopping silage and scouting of fields continued in some areas. Most farmers are now gearing up for the fall harvest season. The most critical areas for soil moisture deficiency remain in the east central, southwest, south central and southeast regions of the state.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 6.7 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Corn **condition** is rated 30 percent good to excellent compared with 29 percent last week and 70 percent last year at this time. Eighty-six percent of the corn acreage has reached the **dough** stage compared with 100 percent last year and 97 percent for the average. Forty-three percent of the corn acreage has reached the **dent** stage compared with 90 percent last year and 71 percent for the average. By area, 40 percent of the corn acreage is in the dent stage in the north, 44 percent in the central regions and 49 percent in the south. Six percent of the corn crop is **mature** compared with 22 percent last year and 16 percent for the 5-year average.

Soybean **condition** is rated 38 percent good to excellent compared with 38 percent last week and 68 percent a year earlier. Ninety-five percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 100 percent last year and 99 percent for the 5-year average. Eleven percent of the soybean acreage is **shedding leaves** compared with 18 percent last year and 16 percent for the average.

Other activities during the week included baling hay, moving grain to market, cutting silage, preparing equipment, cleaning up grain bins, attending FSA offices, hauling manure and taking care of livestock.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 10 percent good, 23 percent fair, 34 percent poor and 33 percent very poor. Pastures continue to dry up in most regions of the state. Third cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 70 percent complete compared with 98 percent last year and 82 percent for the average. **Tobacco** harvest is 25 percent complete compared with 43 percent last year and 34 percent for the average. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Feeding of hay continued.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
	Percent			
Corn in Dough	86	75	100	97
Corn in Dent	43	27	90	71
Corn Mature	6	1	22	16
Soybeans Podding	95	85	100	99
Soybeans Shedding Lvs	11	4	18	16
Alfalfa Third Cutting	70	54	98	82
Tobacco Harvested	25	10	43	34

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excel-lent
			Percent		
Corn	19	22	29	28	2
Soybean	11	19	32	34	4
Pasture	33	34	23	10	0

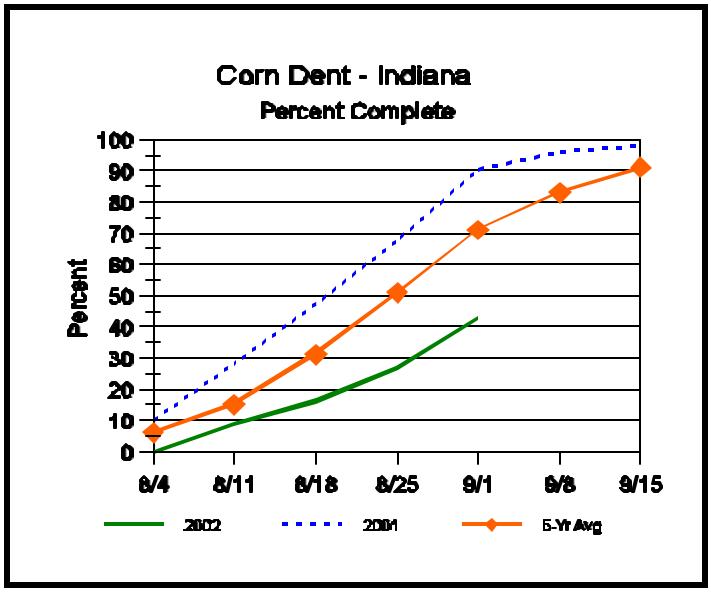
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

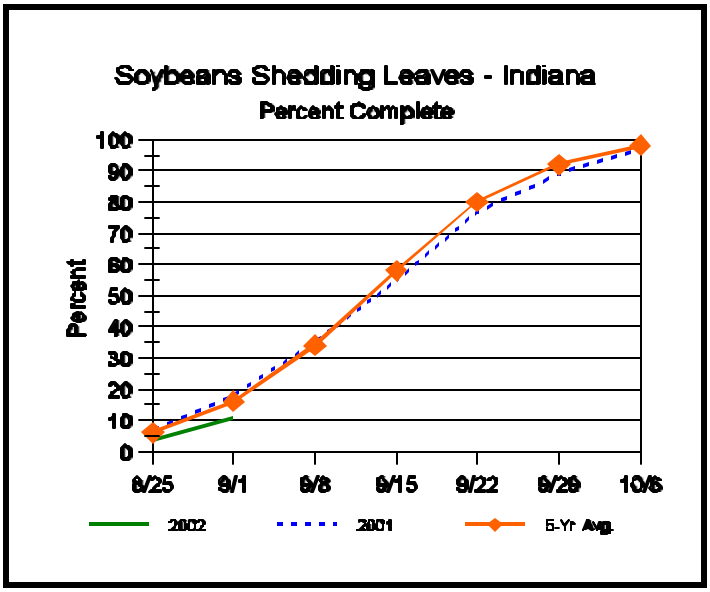
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
		Percent	
Topsoil			
Very Short	34	29	3
Short	37	38	18
Adequate	29	31	72
Surplus	0	2	7
Subsoil			
Very Short	36	32	9
Short	38	40	28
Adequate	26	27	61
Surplus	0	1	2
Days Suitable	6.7	5.6	4.8

CONTACT INFORMATION

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
E-Mail Address: nass-in@nass.usda.gov
http://www.nass.usda.gov/in/index.htm

Crop Progress





Other Agricultural Comments And News

Drought-Damaged Corn as Livestock Feed

Hot, dry weather is taking its toll on the corn crop in many areas of Indiana.

Cattle producers may be harvesting drought-stressed corn as silage this year in order to salvage some value and to supplement potentially short winter feed supplies.

Following are some factors producers should consider prior to and during harvesting of drought-stressed corn.

Crop Insurance. Contact the company or a representative so that the crop can be appraised prior to harvest.

LDP Program. If participating in the LDP (Loan Deficiency Payment) program, producers should contact their Farm Service Agency Office regarding field(s) to be harvested for silage so that yield estimates can be determined.

Check Pesticide Labels. Before using any stressed corn for feed, be sure to note the harvest restrictions for any herbicides and insecticides. Check the pesticide label or consult your chemical supplier for details. This is especially critical with an early silage harvest.

Harvesting as Whole Plant Silage. Feeding value of drought-stressed corn is influenced by several factors, but in general is higher than expected. Most studies indicate feed value of drought-stressed corn to be 80 to 100% that of normal silage. Purdue studies conducted with stressed corn indicated little or no difference in feedlot gain or in milk production when beef and dairy cattle were fed normal or stressed corn silage. As a rule, drought-stressed corn will have slightly more fiber resulting in less energy, but one to two percentage units more protein than normal silage.

One of the most important factors influencing feeding value, is moisture content at harvest. Ideally, the crop should contain 60-70% moisture at harvest. For up-right silos, to avoid seepage, harvest at 60-65%, whereas for bunker silos, harvesting at 65-70% moisture will result in better packing and storage qualities.

The tendency will be to harvest too soon, resulting in silage with excess moisture, poor fermentation and reduced feed value. Stalks of plants with many or most leaves turning brown will contain considerable moisture. Also, stalks with small ears and little or no grain content will be higher in moisture. Normal harvest indicators such as kernel milk line and black layer may not apply in stressed corn.

A quick way to determine if the plant contains too much moisture is to hand-squeeze a representative sample collected from the forage chopper. If water drips from the squeezed sample, the corn is too wet for ideal fermentation. Moisture content may also be determined using a microwave: <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/forages/publications/ID-172.htm>.

What About Nitrate Content? Stressed corn can have elevated nitrate levels. However, samples collected from previous drought years indicated nitrates were not a problem in most cases. For example in 1988, based on 70 fresh corn samples, only 18% contained toxic levels of nitrate. In contrast, 71% of the

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Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday September 1, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
								April 1, 2002 thru September 1, 2002				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil	Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Chalmers_5W	87	57	71	+2	0.00	0		17.21	-2.06	60	2669	+93
Valparaiso_AP_I	87	58	72	+4	0.00	0		16.53	-3.46	58	2667	+314
Wanatah	88	55	71	+3	0.00	0	80	17.20	-2.26	63	2542	+290
Wheatfield	86	57	71	+4	0.00	0		19.62	+0.65	48	2584	+278
Winamac	85	59	71	+3	0.00	0	77	18.78	-0.45	56	2604	+228
North Central(2)												
Plymouth	85	59	71	+2	0.00	0		17.80	-1.61	61	2491	+0
South_Bend	87	57	72	+4	0.00	0		15.04	-3.72	58	2632	+290
Young_America	83	58	71	+2	0.00	0		20.28	+1.86	54	2704	+261
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	85	59	71	+3	0.00	0	76	16.74	-1.78	56	2469	+236
Fort_Wayne	84	58	70	+2	0.00	0		18.37	+1.04	52	2680	+234
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	85	57	70	-2	0.00	0		25.31	+3.65	54	2634	-116
Perrysville	84	57	71	+2	0.00	0	78	27.19	+6.55	56	2777	+212
Spencer_Ag	88	60	73	+3	0.00	0		26.98	+4.78	57	2810	+217
Terre_Haute_AFB	87	58	72	+2	0.03	2		30.14	+9.63	56	3011	+276
W_Lafayette_6NW	84	56	70	+2	0.00	0	78	24.07	+4.86	63	2735	+303
Central (5)												
Eagle_Creek_AP	86	62	74	+3	0.00	0		21.04	+1.64	59	2987	+273
Greenfield	86	61	73	+3	0.00	0		27.96	+6.65	60	2827	+226
Indianapolis_AP	88	64	75	+4	0.00	0		19.29	-0.11	52	3098	+384
Indianapolis_SE	86	60	72	+1	0.00	0		22.85	+2.82	50	2820	+121
Tipton_Ag	84	58	70	+2	0.00	0	79	19.30	-0.22	54	2609	+246
East Central (6)												
Farmland	86	56	70	+3	0.00	0	73	17.72	-1.20	57	2702	+394
New_Castle	86	58	70	+1	0.00	0		20.81	+0.27	49	2425	+61
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	92	63	77	+4	0.00	0		19.36	-0.15	43	3479	+332
Freelandville	88	64	75	+4	0.15	1		22.28	+1.93	47	3171	+346
Shoals	90	62	75	+3	0.00	0		21.30	-0.80	44	3052	+318
Stendal	91	63	76	+3	0.28	1		23.46	+1.53	47	3295	+327
Vincennes_5NE	89	62	75	+4	0.26	1	75	23.85	+3.50	56	3235	+410
South Central(8)												
Leavenworth	87	64	74	+3	0.15	2		21.25	-1.41	48	3142	+421
Oolitic	89	61	75	+5	0.00	0	78	24.15	+2.81	54	2984	+368
Tell_City	92	64	76	+3	0.48	2		21.10	-1.30	38	3585	+567
Southeast (9)												
Brookville	92	60	74	+5	0.00	0		20.21	-0.50	48	3038	+554
Milan_5NE	88	61	73	+4	0.05	1		26.26	+5.55	59	2694	+210
Scottsburg	88	56	73	+1	0.04	1		23.30	+2.28	53	2993	+182

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
GDD = Growing Degree Days.
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

The above weather information is provided by AWIS, Inc.
For detailed ag weather forecasts and data visit the AWIS home page at
www.awis.com or call toll free at 1-888-798-9955.

sorghum-sudan grass samples contained toxic levels of nitrate.

Quantitative laboratory analyses for nitrate can be performed at the Purdue University Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL). Cost is $15.00 per sample plus $7.00 accession fee per individual each time samples are submitted. A one-quart size sample of chopped forage is adequate. Samples should be submitted in paper bags or cardboard boxes, not in sealed glass or plastic containers. Names and addresses of other laboratories to obtain nitrate tests can be found at <http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/beef/Hendrix/ForageNitrate.html>.

Also, during the fermentation process, 40 to 60 percent of nitrates will be eliminated. Keep in mind, however, that various nitrogen oxide gases produced during the fermentation process are highly toxic to humans and livestock. For the first three to four weeks after ensiling, do not enter a silo without first running the blower for 15 to 30 minutes.

Harvesting for Green Chop. In cases where pasture and stored feed supplies are getting short, producers may wish to consider green-chopping corn for feed. There are two major concerns with this practice. One is the potential for nitrate toxicity and second is the potential to founder animals. To avoid these problems: (1) raise the cutter bar to 12 inches or so the first few days of chopping, (2) gradually introduce animals to green chop, (3) use other feeds that are low in nitrate as part of the ration, (4) feed green chop in small quantities throughout the day rather than large quantities once per day, (5) don't allow green-chop forage to set on a wagon overnight, (6) feed two to three pounds of grain with high nitrate feeds, (7) nitrate levels tend to increase for two to three days following rain, thus take extra precautions during this time period, (8) as plants mature, nitrate levels decline, also animals become acclimated, thus chances for toxicity decrease with time.

Selling or Buying Drought-Damaged Corn. Normally, whole plant corn silage (65%) moisture per ton is valued at 9-10 times the price of a bushel of corn, including harvest and storage costs (i.e.$2.50/bu = $22.50 to $25.00/ton of silage). Standing corn should be discounted $5.00 to $7.00/ton to account for harvesting costs. Discounts due to lower feed value should range from 0 to no more than $4.00 per ton.

Moisture content will greatly influence pricing. For example, let us assume a value of $24.50 per ton of 65% moisture has been established. Each ton at 65% moisture contains (2000 x .35) = 700 lbs of dry matter. Value per cwt of dry matter = $24.50 ÷ 7 = $3.50. If, however, moisture content is 70%, then each ton contains only 600 lbs of dry matter. To have comparable value, this silage should be priced at $21.00 (6 x $3.50) per ton. On the other hand, if moisture content was 60%, then a comparable price would be (2000 x .40 =800; 8 x $3.50 = $28.00 per ton).

Yield per acre will vary greatly with moisture content and with grain yield. At 65% moisture, normal yields would be one ton for each seven to eight bushels of grain. However, with stressed corn, and grain yields in the 50 to 75 bushel per acre range, assume one ton of silage for each five bushels of grain. If stalks are mostly barren, an estimate is one ton per foot of stalk, excluding the tassel.

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